GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
LIFTING OF FARM SUBSIDIES BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India in the recent Earth Summit at Johannesburg demanded that the developed countries should lift farm subsidies; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the developed nations thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): During the discussions on agriculture in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, issues related to the impact of trade policies that support micro enterprises, value added agricultural products and re-direction of agricultural subsidies to poverty and hunger eradication were discussed. Bracketed text on achieving improvements in market access, phasing out 8of export subsidies and reduction of trade distorting practices in agriculture were considered together with other trade related issues. However, due to their domestic compulsions, developed countries did not agree to lift farm subsidies and thus it did not find place in the agreed texts of Political Declaration and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.